

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 EA-06 IO-10 NEA-10 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7229

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 13345

PASS TREASURY FOR WIDMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD, ECON, ENRG, EGEN, EFIN

SUBJECT: OECD PRELIMINARY WRAP-UP

1. PACKAGE OF DECISIONS FOR OECD MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION ON LDC/COMMODITY ISSUES COMPLETED BY OECD PERMREPS TODAY INCLUDES

--DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH LDCS;

-- DECISION SETTING UP HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES;

-- DECISION SETTING UP AD HOC HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO REVIEW RELATIONS WITH LDCS.

BARRING LAST MINUTE DEVELOPMENTS AT "SAFETY VALVE" MEETING OF HEADS OF DEL MONDAY, MAY 26, THESE TEXTS WILL BE BASIS FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY'S ACTION (ALTHOUGH LATTER TWO PROCEDURAL DECISIONS MAY ACTUALLY BE TAKEN
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BY OECD PERMREP COUNCIL).

2 TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS OF ABOVE PACKAGE AS WELL AS DRAFT COMMUNIQUE NOT UNEXPECTEDLY REVEALED CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE. ONE GROUP, NOTABLY CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS, SWEDES, ARE VERY RESERVED ABOUT ANY DECLARATION ON LDCS. THEY ARE SKITTISH OF ANY IMPLICATION OECD WILL BE USED TO ATTEMPT TO CONCERT INDUSTRIALIZED FREE WORLD POSITIONS IN DIALOGUE WITH LDCS.

3. UK DELEGATION WANTS TO USE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON LDCS AND FORMATION OF TWO GROUPS AS MOOD MUSIC FOR FORTHCOMING UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AND AS VEHICLE FOR ASSERTING BRITISH LEADERSHIP OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES IN MEETING LDC DEMANDS. ALL THEIR TENACIOUS DRAFTING EFFORTS WERE BENT TO SENDING FORTHCOMING SIGNALS TO G-77 RE THEIR SHOPPING LIST.

4. FRENCH ARE STILL A CIPHER. THEY APPARENTLY ARE READY TO AGREE TO OECD REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH LDCS BUT DO NOT YET HAVE THEIR LINES STRAIGHT ON HOW TO REASSERT INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE IN EC AND OECD, WHILE MAINTAINING INDEPENDENT STANCE IN EYES OF LDCS. WE EXPECT THEY MAY MAKE MAJOR STATEMENT ON WEDNESDAY ON ENERGY AND SEEK TO REFURBISH THEIR IMAGE AS INITIATOR OF LDC DIALOGUE. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO HEAR DOCTRINAIRE REAFFIRMATION FRENCH POSITION ON ORGANIZATION OF COMMODITY MARKETS.

5. GERMAN AND JAPANESE APPEAR WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH OECD REVIEW OF COMMODITY AND LDC ISSUES IN PRAGMATIC MANNER BUT ARE FAR FROM READY TO SIGNAL DISPOSITION FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN WORLD ECONOMIC PRACTICES.

6. DESPITE DIVERGENT APPROACHES WE HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION FROM OUR EFFORTS OF LAST FEW DAYS THAT MOST OECD GOVERNMENTS ARE GROPING FOR A POLICY RESPONSE TO A SUDDENLY PERCEIVED NEW SITUATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LDCS.

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7. ISSUES WITH REGARD TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES (WHICH WILL BE MAINLY DISCUSSED ON SECOND DAY OF MINISTERIAL) APPEAR MORE MUTED THAN MAY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. WE SEEM TO BE HOME SAFE ON THE TRADE PLEDGE. THERE WILL PROBABLY BE SOME PRESSURE BY A MINORITY (ITALY AND THE SMALLER OECD MEMBERS) FOR COMMITMENTS BY THE STRONG COUNTRIES TO PURSUE MORE VIGOROUS EXPANSIONARY POLICIES

AND TO WORK TOWARD REDUCING DIFFERENCES IN PAYMENTS
POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY ON CURRENT ACCOUNT. HOWEVER,
THE PREPARATORY WORK THUS FAR HAS NOT REVEALED ANY
SIGNALS OF MAJOR CONTROVERSIES IN THESE AREAS, ALTHOUGH
THERE COULD ALWAYS BE SURPRISES, FOR EXAMPLE, ON
DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE, WHEN PRINCIPALS ARRIVE FROM
CAPITALS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP13345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0924
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750519/aaaaarap.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD PRELIMINARY WRAP-UP
TAGS: ECON, ENRG, EGEN, EFIN, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006